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PRESS RELEASE

**Chester County Man Charged With Attempted
Murder and Rape in Valentine's Day Attack**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan and the Pennsylvania State Police announced the arrest of defendant William Brown of West Nottingham for rape, attempted murder, and related charges. The defendant's wife was granted a protection from abuse order against the defendant on February 12, 2016, after the defendant threatened her with a knife. On Valentine's Day, February 14, the defendant broke through a door at the victim's home, repeatedly stabbed the victim's cousin with a butcher knife, and raped the victim. The police interrupted the attack because the victim managed surreptitiously to dial 911 on a cell phone and leave the phone live during part of the attack.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This is a classic and terrifying case of domestic abuse, with violence masquerading as love. The victim here is to be commended for having the courage and composure to call 911. She stopped what otherwise would have been a double murder."

The defendant is 45 years old. He is 5'10" and weighs 250 pounds. He previously lived with the victim at 10 Center Drive, Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The facts alleged in the complaint are as follows:¹

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

On Friday, February 12, 2016, the victim applied for and was granted a temporary protection from abuse order against the defendant, her husband. The basis for the PFA was an incident where the defendant had threatened to kill her with a butcher's knife, as well as threatening to kill himself.

On Valentine's Day, February 14, the victim was at home at 10 Center Drive in West Nottingham with her cousin. Her cousin had stayed overnight with the victim for her protection. They already had changed the locks at the residence to keep the defendant out.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., the defendant arrived at the residence and kicked in the front door. The defendant immediately stabbed the victim's cousin in the chest with a butcher's knife. The defendant also choked the victim until she became disoriented. The defendant then stated that every time the victim spoke, the defendant would stab the victim's cousin again.

The defendant terrorized the victim and her cousin. He sliced the victim's cousin in the face with a box cutter and struck the victim's cousin in the head with a wooden statue. He then stabbed the victim's cousin in the chest again and threatened to kill them both. During this activity, the victim managed to dial 911 on her cell phone and hide the phone, leaving an open line so that police would respond.

The defendant next took the victim into a bedroom and raped her. Afterwards, the defendant stated that he was going to kill the victim, her cousin, and then himself.

The victim and the defendant then heard someone coming to the front door. The victim told the defendant it must be their daughter. The defendant told the victim to let their daughter in and sat down. Instead of their daughter, it was Troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police who quickly entered, secured the defendant, and began treating the victim and her cousin.

The victim and her cousin were transported to a hospital. The victim's cousin was operated on and is in serious but stable condition.

The defendant was arraigned, bail was set at \$500,000 cash, and the defendant was remanded to Chester County Prison.

Deputy District Attorney Michelle Frei, the lead domestic violence prosecutor in Chester County, stated, "Unfortunately, we have seen over and over again that the time of greatest danger for a woman is the exact moment when she is separating herself from her partner. This may include filing a PFA, filing for divorce, or just throwing him out of the house. We always tell women to be extremely careful during these high stress points."

District Attorney Hogan added, "This defendant inflicted a savage attack on his wife and her cousin. But he was as meek as a lamb when armed Troopers showed up. He is a classic bully and coward. Now he will have to face up to the Chester County justice system."

This case was investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police. Assistant District Attorney Ryan Borchik has been assigned to prosecute the case.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan